

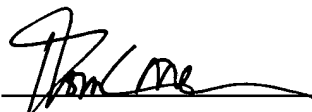
REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-8 are amended herein in order to place the claims into a conventional U.S. claim format, and such claim amendments are neither made for purposes related to patentability, nor narrow the scope of the claims. In addition, claims 9-20 are added. Consideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should any fees be due as a result of the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account Number 50-1733, MAIKP131US.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper or item referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date September 16, 2004


Christine Gillroy